

Dr Foster

Wyoming July 11th 1779.

How do you do? - Cannot you for a moment, like Macbeth with the visionary Dagger, conceive that you grasp my hand? - In reality you have my heart. You will possibly say, can affection, sentiment ~~and~~ on any other virtues exist in a rude, wild & savage Country? Yes sir, the Jelimb mountain every Day as lofty, & as craggy as the peak of Teneriff, with prospects before me as dark & horrid as Erebus itself, I cannot forget the tribute due to Friendship; nay, tho' I should tumble down the Falls of Niagara (where in all probability I shall be before long) I will remember my Friend as I descend.

Gallantry adieu! I have not received a kind look from a Lady these three Weeks, nor have I been able to squeeze the Fair-ones hand, & languishingly ask her how she feels since I have been in this quarter. How shall I support this situation? Do for God sake set your electrical machine to work, & extract all the Promethean heat from me, that I may be left naked & as cold as a stoic. In my present state I cannot bare to spend so much of my time without some female friend to communicate the enjoyment. I've never felt more amorous when he was in full possession of the charms of Alcmena, or more stout when he assumed the shape of the Bull to enjoy Europa, than I do at the present moment. - Say no more Trin.

If you have not a modern Map by you, you will naturally ask where this place Wyoming is - It is a settlement

on the East branch of the Susquehanna, to the Westward of Pennsylvania, claimed by the State of Connecticut, but contended for by Pennsylvania. Last summer near 500 People Inhabited it, but a War broke out between them & the Indians which almost ruined the settlement. On the 3^d of July last a Battle was fought about 6 Miles above the Town, between a body of the Inhabitants, about 1100 in number, & a party of Indians consisting of 900, under the command of the famous Butler. The obstinacy of the conflict, ^{& fortune once promised our men success, but} made the action very bloody, victory ^{at last} paid homage to the sword of Butler, the Indians gained the ascendancy, & Tomahawked 300 on the field. This stroke put it in their power to plunder, & desolate the Country without opposition. It to this Day remains a melancholy spectacle of savage cruelty.

The Country on the borders of the River is really beautiful, with some of the richest fields of Corn, wheat, & meadow that ever I saw. On each side of the River, a lofty chain of Mountains run as if Nature intended them as fortifications to the settlements; from the tops of those Mountains the Country unfolds the most agreeable prospect that the most luxuriant fancy ^{possibly} can portray.

As far as the Eye can reach we see the delightful meanderings of the River, & lofty cliffs rearing their heads above the Clouds. On either side extensive green Lawns decorated with curious weeds, & flowers of various sorts. I never wished more for the descriptive powers of ^{in my life than I do} ~~Tompson~~ ^{however} ~~than~~ at present. I must leave the picture unfinished & refer you to some of the Landships of Poussin & Corregio to enlarge the Idea of its beauty.

It is now time to let you know that I passed thro' a
place called the shades of Death. If I should inform
you perhaps that notwithstanding I had passed thro' the
shades, & ~~that I am~~ ^{still not} ~~able to~~ ^{able to} give you any account
of the upper, or lower World, you will believe the doctrine
of annihilation, which I would not have you do for the
World. Be assured of it ^{however} that I have neither appeared at
the Chancery of Heaven, nor at the Court of Pluto; neither
have I had a sight of Purgatory, nor that Limbo so much
spoken of in the Graecian Churches. —

You by this time I suppose ^{will} be anxious to know what
we are doing, & what route we are about to take. — In
the first place, we are at present Idle; in the next
we shall move to a place called Tioga about 100 Miles
above this, from thence to Chemung, & so on till we have
routed the whole Indian Country, & finally to sit down be-
fore the Walls of Niagara.

Well, — how does Mr. Donnison do? And how does Joey stand
his banishment from the New Light meeting? — I would
give the World for a 12 o'clock frolic. — But as that
is impossible present my best wishes to the old Lady &
Joseph, assure them both that I wish them well. — Re-
member me to your Brother, to Mr. Droune, Mr. Coleman
Mr. Lean & Arvanoe. —

In a very particular manner remember me to Maj.
Handy & his Lady with all due affection. — Let Handy
have the perusal of this Letter. —

I have to conclude, with requesting that you will write
me five sheets of Paper with all the News even the
most trifling, of Providence, & send it by post directed
to me at Easton to the care of Col.^o Hooper & J. D. M^{rs} M^{rs}
Genl at that place. — write over the top of the direction
on public service. — Farewell!

I am, sincerely

Your Friend

W. Pierce Jr.

Dwight Foster Esq.

Recd July 20th 1849 — on the great Bridge in Providence
D. Foster —

Letter from Dwight
Foster July 20th 1849
Received July 20th 1849
Wm. D. M^{rs} M^{rs}